The Pacific

100th Year (First Issue Aug. 1, 1851) DECEMBER, 1950 No. 10

CHRISTMAS IN OUR CONFERENCE

The spirit of Christmas sends our thoughts far afield. It is the time of year when our affections reach out to claim loved ones in distant places and friends of former days. The whole world is laced together with a criss-cross pattern of concern, made manifest in greeting cards that come and go in all directions. All of this flux is motivated by an event that happened in Bethlehem centuries ago, which moves people to thoughts of love and good will, as though it were but yesterday.

This same outreach makes us aware of fellow Christians in the churches of our Conference scattered through California's valleys and mountains. We are mindful of those faithful folk far north, where the redwoods skirt the ocean shore at Ferndale and Eureka. Our imagination takes us over the ranges to Weaverville, nestled among mountain peaks, fringed with pine and fir. Then on east into the sagebrush country, where the streets of Alturas, Eagleville, and Cedarville lead off into vast purple distances. We picture the long valleys of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, where church spires rise above vineyards and orchards and good friends worship. Around the great basin of San Francisco Bay, there is a cluster of Congregational churches which stretches south into the Santa Clara Valley, north to the Russian River country, and east to the edge of the delta land. Along the shores of Monterey Bay, there is the white spire of Soquel, the new fellowship at La Selva Beach, and old faithful First Church of Santa Cruz. And finally, in the heart of San Francisco, "where cross the crowded ways of life," there stands the mother church of all our fellowship, carrying on her work of preaching the Gospel and ministering to men.

During this joyous Christmas season, let us all join hands and hearts with our Congregational brethren, not to take pride in denominationalism, but because this is our effective working fellowship for the Church Universal and the kingdom of Him who is called "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

P. F. Midwinter Conference At San Mateo J. C.

The annual Midwinter Conference of the Northern California Pilgrim Fellowship will be held at San Mateo, December 27-30. The sessions will be held on the campus of the San Mateo Junior College at Coyote Point, and delegates will be entertained in San Mateo homes. Rev. G. Arthur Casaday is the director, and the main address will be given by Dr. Vere V. Loper. Rev. Terence Stoker, assistant minister at San Mateo, is working with a committee of local young people to get ready for this important event. Reservations may be sent to the office of Rev. William W. Meyer, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 4.

PRESENT TENSE

Rise up, O shepherds, angel choirs are singing!
Ride on, O kings, your gold and incense bringing!
Behold the Babe! His helpless human clinging
Celestial bells in Mary's heart set ringing.

This humble stable hears the cows' soft lowing.
Apast the doors are quiet neighbors going.
Above, the stars with special brightness glowing.
It's ageless hour could Bethlehem be knowing?

And Joseph's eyes these mysteries discerning
Find answer here to Israel's deathless yearning;
The Father-heart, beyond man's cruel spurning,
The child divinely sent will soon be learning.

Favor he'll find with God and man. His teaching
Will bear authority to human souls' up-reaching;
His good news to the poor he will be preaching—
No man too sick or mad for his beseeching.

O broken world! The crown of thorns you're feeling .
O dull of mind! Such needless doom you're sealing.
Heed Him! In grateful penitence come kneeling
Before His throne who holds the people's healing.

—Fred Morrow.

Ground Breaking Ceremony for St. John's United Church in San Francisco, October 29, 1950

PROGRESS REPORT ON LA SELVA BEACH

Congregational people who are looking for a place to live where the scenic beauty is unsurpassed and the community spirit is of the first order, had better cast their eyes at La Selva Beach in Santa Cruz County. Here is an ideal community on the coast, where sweet-scented pines mix their aroma with tangy salt air, and the muffled booming of the surf puts you off at night to pleasant dreams. Some day La Selva Beach may be the "Claremont" of Northern California because it doesn't require much imagination to picture these Elysian fields as the place to retire for Congregationalists who would like to settle down among friends.

The new La Selva Beach Church was taken into the Santa Clara Association on April 23, when representatives of the churches of the area came in large numbers to join in the impressive service of recognition. The La Selva people use the large Community Center building for Sunday School and worship services. Under the leadership of William McReynolds, a student at P.S.R., this little band of wide-awake young couples is making plans for a lovely white colonial chapel, which will be erected against a background of Monterey pines on property adjacent to the Community Hall. On October 22, the executive committee of the Santa Clara Association voted funds as a loan to the La Selva Beach Church for the purchase of lots for the new structure. Labor for the building will be contributed "in toto" and a donation of lumber for the job is in prospect.

One of the greatest assets in our work at La Selva Beach is the unusual spirit of that community. When the folks down there want to put over a community project, they go at it as a perfectly coordinated team. It is this same 100% spirit that will make the church at La Selva Beach one of the best in our Conference. Watch them grow!

CENTENNIAL WIND-UP

As the curtain goes down on the Centennial campaign of 1949 and 1950, we are able to report cash and pledges of $75,812.99 on December 1. Solicitation of special gifts by Superintendent Harley H. Gill and the receipt of special offering during this last month will bring the total to a somewhat higher figure by December 31. This money has made possible the starting of new churches in Sacramento (Oak Park), Modesto, Pleasant Hill, El Cerrito, La Selva Beach, and San Francisco (St. John's). It has helped to revitalize our work in Santa Rosa and has paid for a new road, swimming pool, and truck for Cazadero. Cash reserves from the Centennial will be used in the further promotion of these projects, and others.

Church Extension and Cazadero improvement will continue during 1951 and years following under the "Special Projects Finance Committee" which has been appointed by the Board of Directors of the Conference. This committee will solicit the interest and support of individuals and local churches in new projects, such as the building of the dining hall at Cazadero and the development of churches in allocations which our denomination holds in Fresno, San Jose, East Oakland, Madera, and Vallejo. With the continued rapid population growth of California, it is the conviction of all wide-awake Congregationalists that our program of "Missions at the Grass Roots" should continue.

The following churches are taking special Centennial offerings in 1950: Guerneville, Berkeley Chinese, San Rafael, San Francisco Chinese, Berkeley First, Oakland First, Sacramento Oak Park, Tulare, Oakland Japanese, Benicia, Oakland Plymouth, San Francisco First, Angels Camp, Fresno Japanese, Hayward, Martinez, Oakland New Pilgrim, Sunol, Oroville, Loomis, Cloverdale, Porterville, and Orinda. We are gratified for their continued interest in this worthy cause.

Rev. Karl Olson and Supt. Harley Gill Break Earth, Ocean View, October 29

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Rev. Sidney H. Buckham, Editor This Issue

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SIERRA ARDEN FLOOD

The one church in our Northern California fellowship that was hit hard by the recent flood was Sierra Arden at Sacramento. The church building, itself, was not flooded, but there were two floodings of the parsonage, one of about 30 inches, on the main floor, and the other of about 50 inches. Rev. Mary McKee Chester and Rev. Joseph Chester were able to take some of their belongings to the second floor and later, when the water was highest, went out of an upstairs window by ladder into a boat. Some 30 families connected with the church suffered damage, a few of them quite serious losses.

Immediately upon hearing the news, Supt. Gill sent to the churches of our Conference a special appeal for an offering on Sunday, November 26. Later, he visited Sacramento and discovered four objects for which relief money might be disbursed: (1) parsonage repairs, (2) furniture repair and replacement, (3) assistance for the budget of the church since some members will find it difficult to meet their obligations, and (4) some direct aid to member families.

A committee of Sacramento Congregationalists has been set up and given full authority to study the needs and to make the funds go as far as possible. The Congregational Church Building Society has promised some aid. Churches that were unable to take an offering on the 26th, or those who feel that a reminder to their people on a subsequent Sunday might bring a larger amount, are urged to participate.

All money should be sent to the Conference office so that a complete record of amounts given may be had. Each day the receipts are forwarded to the treasurer of the special Sacramento committee.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 27-30—Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference, San Mateo.

January 25-27—Cavalcade of Christian Education, First Presbyterian Church, Oakland.

January 26 — Northern California-Western Nevada Council of Churches annual dinner, Scottish Rite Bldg., Oakland. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, speaker.

January 29-February 1 — Missions Council Meetings, Grand Rapids, Mich.

March 25—Easter.

May 18-20—Annual Conference, Pilgrim Church, Fresno.

FIFTY-TWO CHURCHES AHEAD OF 1949, AND 40 CHURCHES BEHIND—WHERE DO YOU STAND?

	App't Jan. 11 to Nov. 30,'49	App't Jan. 11 to Nov. 30,'50
Alameda	$1,121.46	$1,145.46
Alturas	138.69	183.81
Angels Camp	434.43	268.41
Antioch	119.74	276.95
Auburn	267.16	150.00
Benicia	15.50	26.00
Berkeley, Arlington	437.11	615.03
Chinese	25.00	25.07
First	9,344.86	9,228.81
North	1,255.98	1,243.20
Northbrae	276.17	400.00
South	835.24	705.92
Biola	47.68	46.08
Campbell	428.55	872.10
Cedarville	77.93	32.10
Cloverdale	121.10	98.40
Cotati	64.50	85.01
Crockett	81.53	110.70
Dinuba	2.00	1.00
Eagleville	7.36	13.38
Elk Grove	33.64	67.14
Etna	60.36	81.98
Eureka	1,142.54	1,178.15
Fairfax	175.00	265.80
Ferndale	342.76	393.18
Fowler	125.00	——
Fresno, First	3,215.70	3,068.09
Free Cross	——	482.89
Japanese	——	61.25
Zion	66.08	10.00
Glen Ellen	34.23	99.50
Guerneville	235.90	336.04
Hayward	1,773.90	1,847.38
Kenwood	89.03	56.57
Likely	7.13	——
Lodi, Ebenezer	299.30	96.52
First	3,008.07	3,116.00
Loleta	33.46	24.82
Loomis	100.00	——
Martinez	1,326.13	1,828.81
Modesto	70.18	136.00
Murphys	——	5.00
Niles	123.50	24.30
Oakland, Beth. Arm'n.	71.57	——
First	5,569.54	4,951.27
Fruitvale	67.41	——
Japanese	30.00	——
New Pilgrim	98.96	446.59
Plymouth	2,263.42	1,728.87
Orinda	1,415.18	889.82
Oroville	188.96	250.00
Pacific Grove	143.26	75.84
Palo Alto	3,068.13	3,525.50
Paradise	641.50	645.60
Parlier	10.00	15.00
Penngrove	59.16	175.26
Pescadero	23.86	26.45
Petaluma	1,055.00	1,100.00
Pittsburg	333.02	370.42
Port Chicago	61.10	15.00
Porterville	2,104.00	2,100.00
Redwood City	541.84	674.94
Reedley	21.28	——
Rio Vista	85.00	50.00
Ripon	319.44	286.53
Sacramento, Pioneer	2,437.00	2,721.25
Sierra Arden	311.33	137.25
Salida	68.18	61.69
San Carlos	1,060.00	1,240.00
San Francisco—		
Bethany Miss. Park	142.20	182.15
Calvary Armenian	30.00	——
Chinese	——	26.50
First	2,341.96	2,433.79
Ocean View	150.00	100.00
Park Presidio	632.64	910.52
Sanger	245.57	54.36
San Jose	1,716.89	1,893.34
San Leandro	249.41	121.83
San Lorenzo	65.75	17.69
San Mateo	3,100.00	3,900.00
San Rafael	54.70	157.15
Santa Cruz	1,515.32	1,309.41
Santa Rosa	400.00	326.99
Saratoga	273.34	665.27
Sebastopol	380.69	501.83
Sonoma	74.17	190.67
Soquel	92.95	178.86
Stockton	1,796.15	1,405.47
Suisun	107.50	90.00
Sunnyvale	241.47	106.15
Sunol	23.92	170.29
Tulare	1,675.00	1,413.00
Weaverville	110.00	100.00
Woodside	29.00	143.85
Reno, Nevada	719.62	779.61
Miscellaneous	1,755.35	225.00
Pilgrim Fellowship	——	2,131.96
	$67,335.64	$69,729.82

SANTA CRUZ — The "Sunday Evening Hour of Music" is being well attended in this church. On November 26 Mr. C. M. Crougham, well known baritone, sang, with Charlotte Stull at the organ. The Board of Christian Education has been active and is making plans for the increasing of Sunday School attendance and a teacher training program.

Architect's Model of the Mira Vista Church

Truman Douglass on Congregationalism

We Congregationalists are too proud of our independence in the local church. This makes for a basic weakness in our denomination which has been a growing concern of our leaders in state and national offices for some time. Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive Vice President of the Board of Home Missions, has written a thoughtful article entitled, "Roots and Fruits," which deals with this matter of cooperation in a masterful way. We submit a few quotations from it.

"What the Gospel creates is a Church with a Mission. The Mission without the Church is an abstraction. The Church without the Mission is a coterie or club not essentially different from any other group organized to pursue a generally harmless hobby. Thus Church and Mission are individual aspects of the same underlying fact—the fact that through the life, death and victory of Christ there has come into being a New Humanity, which is called out from the body of society to live a distinctive life of its own, but is called out in order that it may re-enter society bringing the power to redeem it.

"The Congregational principle, like any other which embodies a creative and profound apprehension of truth, is always in danger of debasement and trivialization. From a very high view of the nature of the Church it may suffer debasement until it recognizes nothing of the corporate character of Christianity but sees only local associations of like-minded persons organized in defense of their philosophical and social prejudices. From a conception of church life which puts every individual believer and every local fellowship in the place of maximum personal responsibility, Congregationalism may be trivialized to become merely an assertion of the right of the local congregation to live unto itself, equally undisturbed by denominational interference' and by the needs of the world. From being a witness to the truth that the local fellowship of believers is the Whole Church present in that place, Congregationalism may degenerate to become a practitioner of the vulgar rites of 'community church religion,' the worship of the locale—a form of that blood-and-soil mythology which is certainly one of the most widely prevalent and monstrous idolatries of modern man.

"Let us note here that it is just because Congregationalism embodies so high and exacting a conception of churchmanship that it may sometimes descend to such depressing depths of slackness and morbidity. It is not permitted to put its main reliance in a noble liturgical tradition, which can sometimes break through to quicken men's spirits even when churches in other phases of their life have lost all warmth and passion of Christian discipleship. It may not entrust itself to the temporary salvation of the 'leadership principle'—the setting up of a vocational elite called apart for the practice of 'the religious life,' who are sometimes able to maintain the integrity of a movement through periods of popular indifference and apostasy. It may not make participation in the support of its institutions and programs a condition of membership—an insistence which can sometimes produce an impressive organizational accomplishment even when the hearts of the people are far away.

. . ."Congregationalism accepts in utmost seriousness the conception of the Church as the Body of Christ. The Christian fellowship is viewed as an organism, not an organization. In recent times Congregationalism has been described by some of its interpreters as a 'federative' or "associational' type of church order. In point of fact, the basic theory of the Congregational Christian fellowship is the most radically 'organic' of all the ways of understanding the nature of the Christian Church. That is to say, in its conception of what makes the Church, Congregationalism gives the smallest possible place to mechanistic, formal, organizational, external elements, and the largest possible place to those elements which are intrinsic to the Gospel and to the work of the Gospel in men's minds and hearts. It conceives the Church as an organism, a living body.

. . ."In Congregationalism the recognition of this aspect of the Church's organic character is expressed in the principle of Fellowship—the fellowship of the members of the local church and the fellowship of the churches. Just as a human being out of fellowship is less than a person, so a 'Christian' out of the Christian fellowship is not really a Christian and a 'church' out of fellowship with the churches is not in truth a church. Such a statement is not academic or arbitrary. It is necessitated by the nature of the Gospel which calls the Church into being.

. . ."In Congregationalism the presence of the whole in the parts is recognized in the principle of the autonomy of the local church. This principle is not adequately stated when we describe the Congregational Christian polity as one in which the local church holds title to its property and directs the conduct of all its spiritual and temporal affairs. These are secondary—and largely secular—inferences from something much more basic.

"The autonomy of the local church means, primarily and affirmatively, that the wholeness of the Church can be present in every part. All that is needful to make it the Church in a particular place is available to every local fellowship of believers.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

EL CERRITO, MIRA VISTA—Breaking of the ground for the new Mira Vista Church was begun officially on November 12 at 3:30 p. m. at the intersection of Cutting Boulevard and Arlington Avenue in El Cerrito. In the presence of some sixty-five adults and numerous children, the meeting was called to order by Mr. John K. Foote, chairman of the Building Committee. The pastor was called upon for the Invocation, and then Mr. Foote spoke informally of the trials and difficulties and delays with which his committee has had to deal. He then called upon Mr. Donald Beach Kirby, architect for the project, who spoke on the subject, "A Dream Coming True."

The Reverend Harley H. Gill, D.D., superintendent of the Conference, delivered the message of the afternoon. He noted that the church was breaking ground for its first unit on the first anniversary of the founding of the Sunday School.

The prayer of dedication was given by the Reverend Donald F. Gaylord, of Martinez. Since Mr. Gaylord was chairman of the sponsoring committee for the Mira Vista Church, this was most appropriate.

Mr. George W. Bates, the general contractor, was introduced to the assemblage, and then the first shovel of dirt was moved by Mr. Lyle R. Jamieson, chairman of the Board of Directors of the church. The entire group then joined in singing the hymn, "Our Spirit's Home," to the tune of "Finlandia," accompanied by Miss Patricia Perkins on the accordion.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER—The Pilgrim Fellowship of this church entertained 75 young people from eight churches at a highly successful three-day rally in November. The young people of the Sierra Arden Church shared in the program. As a result of this gathering an increased interest in the Pilgrim Fellowship program in the Sacramento Association is already evident. The Pioneer young people earned $36 on "Christ's Work Day."

BERKELEY, SOUTH — A panel discussion on "Fifty Years of Progress in Race Relations in America" was held on November 19. Under this title there were the following subdivisions: "In economic life," by Robert B. Pitts; "In political life," by Attorney Franklin H. Williams; and "In church life," by Rev. John Charles Mickle. Members of other churches in the area were invited to attend this meeting.

FERNDALE—In spite of a very stormy evening, 34 people were present at the Church Night potluck supper recently. The Planning Committee was given authority to proceed with a building program, following three steps of procedure: (1) acceptance of final plans, (2) estimate of probable cost, and (3) a drive for funds, donated labor and material. Rev. Robert W. Lewis is the pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST — The church voted to meet the goal of $4,056 for Our Christian World Mission proposed by the Conference Committee. Rev. James H. Price preached on December 3 when Dr. Wm. E. McCormack was in attendance at the organizational meeting of the new National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

NILES—Rev. Alfred P. Focht is pastor. He is leading in a program of released time education with 135 children coming to his church for instruction regularly. Representatives of two other churches are assisting.

FRESNO, FIRST CHURCH — A gift of $25,000 was received on December 3 from Ward B. Minturn and his daughter, Mrs. Joseph C. Kimble, for the construction and furnishing of the chapel (now under construction) to be known as "The Elizabeth Kennedy Minturn Memorial Chapel." Mrs. Minturn as a young woman taught in the Sunday School and in later life contributed much to the welfare and maintenance of the church. Mr. Minturn is a past chairman of the finance committee of the church and one of its most active laymen. The Building Completion Campaign of the church conducted in November under the leadership of Mr. Minturn for a minimum of $75,000 has thus far brought in a total of $94,155.49 from 558 families with the expectation that the maximum goal of $100,000 will be reached. The extra gift of $25,000 beyond this goal made by Mr. Minturn will free funds for the purchase of a new parsonage near the new church location. The old parsonage, given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy, parents of Mrs. Minturn, will be sold and the funds applied on the new parsonage.

Construction is rapidly nearing completion on the chapel and three additional department rooms which were started in October when the old church property was sold for $30,000 cash for the use of Masonic groups. The main social hall seating 600 will be erected as sufficient funds are made available through the thirty-month pledges of members to the Building Completion Campaign.

CLOVERDALE—Under the virile leadership of Rev. Joseph H. Bennett, this church is making remarkable progress. The interior of the parsonage has been entirely renovated, the church sanctuary will be repainted, and the social hall completely done over within the next few months. Mr. Bennett is obtaining the cooperation of the men of the community in church improvement. Attendance has picked up considerably under his leadership. Because of the rapid expansion of the lumbering business this community has shown consistent growth in recent months.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON —The second annual Kensington Community Service of Thanksgiving was held on November 23 at 10 a. m. More than 200 people gathered in the sanctuary for this service. Rev. J. Hood Snavely brought the Thanksgiving Day message on "Tedium or Te Deum." The thank offering was given to Church World Service.

OROVILLE—On October 29 the Church School presented a "Reformation" pageant at the church service. The children of the Church School made their pledges to the church on that day and these were placed on the altar during a special service. The annual Holiday Fair was held on December first.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED — The Sunday evening service is being well attended. A fall festival dinner was held on November 16. Music was rendered by the a cappella choir of the Mission High School and by a trio from the Fellowship Church of All Peoples. Rev. J. Paul Coleman is the minister.

ALAMEDA — A "dinner of the year" was served on December 8. Financial subscriptions for the Church Improvement Program were solicited from individuals and groups. The dinner was sponsored by the Board of Trustees.

SAN JOSE—The budget for 1951 for this church is $13,915, representing a considerable increase over this year. A special committee is still searching for property near the Kaiser tract, where the church hopes to start a branch project. The church entered heartily into a city-wide campaign of visitation evangelism. Twenty teams made up largely of young couples visited 120 prospects for the church. Fifty-one new members were enlisted. Rev. S. C. Peabody, pastor, regards this effort as one of the most significant that has taken place in the life of the church for years. The members of the church have found and completely furnished a home for a DP family which they are expecting from Latvia. Temporary employment is also being provided. Several other families have been helped by the church.

SAN FRANCISCO, PARK PRESIDIO—Church Loyalty Sunday was observed on November 19. The church was crowded with communicants who not only partook of the Lord's Supper, but dropped a memorandum of what they propose to give for the new church development program. At the Thanksgiving dinner which followed, it was reported that pledges and gifts totaling $20,600 had been deposited. Rev. Robert W. Moon is pastor.

PORTERVILLE — Mr. J. Frank Wright, who perhaps had done more than any other layman to bring this church through difficult times to its present strong position, passed away recently. He was treasurer of the church for many years. A memorial service was held on November fifth. Twelve new members were taken into the church in November. Fifty pupils from the Church School attend the first part of the morning service regularly.

OAKLAND, FIRST — Thanksgiving baskets were prepared and distributed by the Women's League of the church. The Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship held a special candlelight installation service for new officers recently. A candlelight ceremony in the sanctuary preceded the receiving of annual pledges for the 1951 budget at the Thanksgiving Sunday morning service.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH — The Men's Club of the church invited all of the Congregational laymen of the East Bay area to their dinner meeting on November 30. Mr. Albert J. Watson of San Mateo was the guest speaker. The Church Budget Dinner was held on December 6, and Sunday, December 10, was Loyalty Day for the church.

BERKELEY, NORTH — At a church dinner on November 15, the 1951 budget was presented by Finance Committee chairman Carvel Caine. A chart showing the necessary advances in giving to meet the new budget was presented. The budget was adopted and the Every Member Canvass conducted on November 19.

PORT CHICAGO — Nine new members were taken into the church on November 19. Four children were consecrated at this service and four adults baptized. The new teen-age choir sang for the service. Mr. Louis B. Gerhardt is the pastor.

REDWOOD CITY—"Church Loyalty Day" was observed on November 19. Special emphasis was given to Our Christian World Mission at this service, and pledges were received from those in attendance. Rev. Gale W. Engle is the minister.

MODESTO—Rev. and Mrs. Elmo D. Wolfe and their four children left Modesto on November 16 for an extended visit with their relatives in Oklahoma and New Mexico. Mr. Wolfe is interested in some church openings in Southern California and the middle west. Rev. Sidney H. Buckham, director of Church Extension, is filling the pulpit at Modesto while a new leader for this "high potential" church is being sought. Mr. and Mrs. Buckham have set up temporary housekeeping facilities in the parsonage.

STOCKTON — A vesper communion service was held at 5:30 on November 12 for teachers and officers of the Church School and for the young people of the new youth groups. This communion service will be the first of several opportunities each year for Church School teachers to worship together. As a part of the ceremony, the officers of the youth groups were installed. The Women's Fellowship is preparing for their annual Christmas bazaar.

SEBASTOPOL — A beautiful and inspiring service of confirmation and holy communion was held on November 5, when 39 new members were admitted into the church. The sanctuary was especially decorated for the occasion. The new members came to the chancel steps and knelt during the words of confirmation and the laying on of hands. This event was the climax of a visitation evangelism campaign. Rev. Raymond C. W. Keeble is pastor.

SAN LORENZO—"Laymen's Sunday" was observed on October 22, with five laymen conducting the service. On October 30, 125 members of the Bay Association visited the church for a meeting of that organization. Improvement of the building and property is continuing under the leadership of Rev. Homer A. Schwarz.

BERKELEY, FIRST — On Sunday evening, November 26, Handel's "Messiah" was sung by the Chancel Choir. New members were received into the church on December 3. Dr. Vere V. Loper attended the Constituting Convention of the new National Council of Churches of Christ in Cleveland.

ORINDA — A preaching mission was conducted on the four Sunday evenings of November in this church by Rev. Godfrey Matthews. Ground was broken for the third unit on November 26. This is one of the fastest growing churches in our Conference and is under the able leadership of Rev. Fred R. Morrow.

PETALUMA — A church meeting and pot-luck dinner was held on Wednesday, November 8. The proposed budget for 1951 and other matters pertaining to the future of the church were considered. The budget total was set at $10,200, which included a raise in the minister's salary.

SAN MATEO — This church launched a building campaign on December 3 for a total of $128,000. This money will be used for a new educational plant, organ, chapel, and the remodeling of the present church facilities. Mr. John Neukom is the chairman of the drive.

CHURCH BUILDING LITERATURE

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WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Mrs. E. B. Kientz, Correspondent

The next regular meeting of the Federation will be held on January 18, 1951, at First Congregational Church, Oakland.

That "one contrast follows another" is an old saying, and this was certainly true as far as the weather was concerned on the third Thursdays of October and November. October 19 was a wonderful fall day and nearly 300 women traveled to Lodi for the "fall meeting." But when November 16 arrived, wind and rain were the order of the day. However, about 70 women braved the storm to go to Oakland to the regular meeting, and they were well repaid for the meeting was very fine.

Mrs. W. Bayard Buckham, the president, presided and opened the meeting by reading a short extract from the book, "Once There Were Two Churches," in which the fact was emphasized that each church must demonstrate brotherhood in its own community to be of the greatest possible service to all in the community. Her prayer which followed was especially for those who were ill or recently bereaved.

Mrs. George W. Lindsay, Christian Home secretary, stated that the Pilgrim Series materials for Church Schools has for its present emphasis the bringing of the religious education program into the homes and thus include whole families. She suggested parents' meetings and to help make their attendance possible she also suggested that some of the "potential" grandmothers of the church become "foster" grandmothers to the small children who do not have their own grandmothers near enough to "baby-sit" with them.

Mrs. Lewis Taylor brought news from overseas. Malcolm White wrote from China that the missionaries are returning to the States from China, but that does not mean the end of the Christian Church there. The Chinese Christians will not be embarrassed or even subject to suspicion if their missionary friends are not there. Letters and financial help are still possible. While the David Stowes, the Arthur Rindens, the Smiths, and others have recently returned and the Whites are expected soon, one missionary, Miss Grace Boynton, who has been in the States for some months, has recently returned to China.

Korea is in great need of warm clothing, blankets, powdered milk and eggs, vitamins, and soap. They can be sent through Church World Service, c/o Pacific Port Industries, 10901 Russell Street, Oakland. Also needed is the 8c per pound to send the packages on to Korea. It was suggested that the church groups pay this when packages are ready to send. Save the Children Federation, Lyons Van and Storage Co., 29th and Grove Streets, Oakland, will also handle clothing for Korea, and the Government will distribute it under General MacArthur.

For India, contributions of $10 for CARE packages may be sent to CARE, 20 Broad Street, New York 5, N. Y. They should be designated to be sent to Rt. Rev. J. E. L. Newbegin, Bishop, Madura, South India. It is tragically true for a great many people in India that "Soon May Be Too Late!"

From Africa, Dr. Laubach's News Letters tells of the great joy his literacy program has brought to so many. Their need now is for something to read.

Mrs. F. P. Brown sent in a fine report of the response of the women to their "Friendly Service" quotas. Seven schools and colleges have been helped this year, also five hospitals in the U. S. and one in India, migrants, Delmo in Missouri, Micronesia, Africa, India, Japan, Philippines, and the Swedish Mission leper dispensary in South India. They are all deeply grateful for the "lift" this help has given them.

Mrs. W. F. Pemberton reminded the women that the "Reading Reports" are to be sent to her by March 31, 1951. If the present Reading chairman is going out of office in January it would be a good thing for her to make her report for the year to pass on to the new chairman, and thus make it easier for her to make the report in March.

Mrs. Kendall sent word that the Armistice week-end work camp at Cazadero was very successful. A new maintenance superintendent is being sought to carry on at Cazadero for next year. The Midwinter Pilgrim Fellowship Conference is to be held in San Mateo, December 27-30, with Rev. G. A. Casaday as director and Dr. Vere V. Loper as special speaker.

Miss Edith Parsons used the Thanksgiving theme for the worship service, and called attention to the fact that there is an enormous number of blessings which come to us every day and which are taken for granted. "A little Te Deum of the Commonplace," by John Oxenham, was read, in which he thanks God for everything from the air we breathe to the sacrifice for us of Jesus Himself, beloved Son of God. A seldom read passage of Scripture, Habakkuk's "Thanksgiving in a Time of Storm," was also read. In closing, Miss Parsons said that there is nothing that can take away the joy of thanksgiving from those hearts which know their way to God.

The luncheon hour was enlivened by a quiz on "Islam," and the introduction of the Association presidents, who in turn introduced those from their areas who were attending the Federation meeting for the first time, and there were a number of these. Mrs. Gail Cleland, first vice-president, was in charge of this part of the day and welcomed the newcomers.

"South of the Clouds," a new picture sound film, was then shown. It is the story of our mission work in Lebanon. For more about this see the latest issue of "Guide Posts." It may be obtained for showing at the churches from the Methodist Publishing House or the Presbyterian Book Store in San Francisco. Cost of rental is $8.00.

When the women returned to the parlor for the afternoon session, the stage had been set for a play, "Love in Action." Those who took part in the play had come down from Pioneer Church, Sacramento. They were Mrs. Laura Carpenter, director, Mrs. Lucy Dawson, Mrs. Eleanor Larsen, Mrs. Grace Pierce, Mrs. Muriel Gill, and Mrs. Lorraine Todd. They brought a vivid picture of what the "Thank Offering" can really mean. It is hoped that many groups have gotten the play from Mrs. McCartney, Thank Offering secretary, and are using it this fall.

A brief message was brought by Mrs. Mason from the Mira Vista women's group and by Mrs. Oliver from the Hillcrest Congregational Church women. These are the newest churches in the Conference and are located at El Cerrito and Pleasant Hill, respectively.

Mrs. James Cooper, Home Field secretary, gave a brief word picture of the work of healing of the Board of Home Missions, following Jesus' example. She took us to the nine hospitals with their clinics, nurses, training schools, and other fields of service. First we went to Puerto Rico, to Ryder Memorial, which we have helped through our Thank Offering; then to our hospitals for Negroes: Brewer in South Carolina, Talladega and Tougaloo, Flint Goodridge in connection with Dillard University in New Orleans, and to the Barnwell Hospital in Beaumont, Texas. From there we went to Grants, New Mexico, the hospital for Spanish-speaking Americans, and on to the high plateau of Colorado where we found Colbran Hospital in a neighborhood far from the railroad. One other of our hospitals is the Upland Sanitarium at Pleasant Hills, Tennessee. This one was started by three women, a doctor, a nurse, and a business woman, who saw a need and met it with help from the Board of Home Missions.

At the close of the meeting Mrs. Buckham expressed her appreciation and ours to First Church, Oakland, for their hospitality to us throughout the year, and for her many invitations to women's groups in the churches where she has had the opportunity of talking about our work.

And now, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" to you all!

EUREKA — Rapid growth in this city is being met by an increased program in the church. The budget has been stepped up for 1951. The church entertained the Redwood Empire Association on November 2. Delegates attending this gathering were delighted with the accommodations and meals provided for them by the church.

GUERNEVILLE—This church has employed a student from San Anselmo as a minister of youth, and he is doing excellent work. The Pilgrim Fellowship is being reorganized. The building has had a complete overhaul and has been changed into a very beautiful sanctuary. Rev. Frank E. Carlson is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, ST. JOHN'S— The new building at Laguna Honda and Woodside Way is now under construction. It was decided by the Consistory to raise $3,800 to furnish the new building. A new electric organ will cost $3,000 and will be financed over and above the other furnishings.

CHURCH DEVELOPMEN COMMITTEE FORMED

When the Conference committe gathered at Cazadero, September to 13, for a planning session, seve new ideas were generated for the i provement of our fellowship in Nort ern California. One of these was t formation of a "Church Developme Committee" which takes the place the former "Town and Country Co mission." The membership of t group is as follows: Robert Kenna chairman, T. Davis Preston, Raymo Keeble, H. J. Loken, Harry Martyn and Orval S. Clay. Their task is counsel with the Superintendent so-called "marginal churches" and work out a policy by which the churches may be strengthened more effective service.

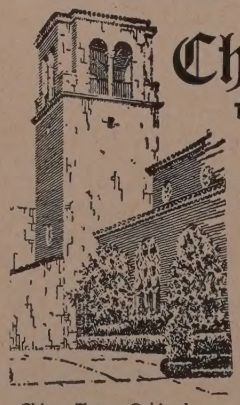
In our Conference there are abo 30 churches which are "marginal Some of these are in suburban or ru areas where there is considerab growth. A bit of a boost would ma it possible for certain struggling c ganizations to get on their feet a begin to meet the opportunities th lie at their doorstep. The Chur Development Committee, which m on December 1, is studying some the more promising fields for develo ment. This is just another step on t part of our Conference to meet n situations which are developing wi better understanding and to help t cause of church extension by wi statesmanship.

Passing Of Beloved Armenian Minister

Rev. Haroutune A. Kartozian, b loved pastor of the Calvary Armeni Church of San Francisco for the pa five years, passed away on Novemb 12. He was born in Sivas, Asia Mi or, in 1876 and came to America 1906. Mr. Kartozian organized t Calvary Armenian Church in Sa Francisco and served two terms minister of this fellowship. He w well known in Congregational circl and will be greatly missed by his ma friends. Our sympathy as a Confe ence goes to his wife and his fi children.

We pile up jets and bigger bombs—for each ten dollars' worth
The UN gets one cent to spend in building peace on earth;
Each dollar bet on friendship and each thousand laid on war
Will bring a full and fair return—perhaps a little more.

—Ellsworth Taylor



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